

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application as presently amended in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 10-16 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 8 and 12 are amended; Claim 9 is canceled; and no claims are added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 8, 12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,766,741 to Bartlett; Claims 3, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bartlett in view of Mei; Claims 10, 12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bartlett in view of U.S. 2002/0040587 to Flynn; Claims 12, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bartlett in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,101,894 to Hendricks; and Claim 9 was indicated as including allowable subject matter.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claim 8 is amended by the present amendment. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 8 is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claim 12 is amended by the present amendment. Support for the amendment to Claim 12 can be found at least at paragraph [0098] of the present specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 12 is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 9 indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 and Claims 2-8 and 10-16 depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

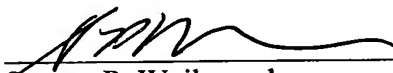
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

SPW:KMM\dt  
I:\ATTY\KMM\PROSECUTION WORK\251102\251102US-AM.DOC

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven P. Weihrouch  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 32,829

Kevin M. McKinley  
Registration No. 43,794